AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A colloidal dispersion comprising particles of a rare earth compound, an acid, an organic phase, and an antioxidant; wherein at least 90% by weight of the particles are monocrystalline.

17. (Previously Presented) The dispersion as claimed in claim 16, wherein the antioxidant is selected from the group consisting of a substituted derivative of phenol, an aromatic amine and a tocopherol.

18. (Previously Presented) The dispersion as claimed in claim 17, wherein the antioxidant is an alkyl- or alkoxyphenol.

19. (Previously Presented) The dispersion as claimed in claim 18, wherein the antioxidant is 2,6-di-tert-butylphenol, 2,6-di-tert-butyl paracresol, or 2-tert-butyl-4-methoxyphenol.

20. (Previously Presented) The dispersion as claimed in claim 16, wherein the rare earth is cerium, lanthanum, yttrium, neodymium, gadolinium, or praseodymium.

21. (Previously Presented) The additive as claimed in claim 30, wherein the other element (E) selected from the groups IIA, IVA, VIIA, VIII, IB, IIB, IIIB and IVB of the Periodic Table of the Elements.

22. (Previously Presented) The dispersion as claimed in claim 16, wherein the acid is an amphiphilic acid.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The dispersion as claimed in claim 16 ~~claim 23~~, wherein the particles have a d_{50} of between 1 and 5 nm.

25. (Previously Presented) A colloidal dispersion comprising particles of a rare earth compound, an acid, an organic phase, and an antioxidant, wherein the particles are not larger than 200 nm, said dispersion having the following characteristics:

said particles are in the form of aggregates of crystallites whose d_{80}, advantageously d_{90}, is not more than 5 nanometers, 90% (by weight) or more of the aggregates comprising 1 to 5 crystallites; and the acid is an amphiphilic acid

comprising at least one acid with 11 to 50 carbon atoms, having at least one alpha, beta, gamma, or delta branch of the atom bearing the acidic hydrogen.

26. (Previously Presented) The dispersion as claimed in claim 16, wherein the particles of a rare earth compound that have been obtained by a method comprising the following steps:

a) a solution is prepared comprising at least one soluble salt, optionally a rare earth acetate or chloride;

b) the solution is contacted with a basic medium forming a reaction mixture maintained at a basic pH to form a precipitate; and

c) the precipitate formed is recovered by spraying or freeze-drying.

27. (Previously Presented) The dispersion as claimed in claim 16, wherein the acid is a fatty acid of tallol, soybean oil, tallow, linseed oil, oleic acid, linoleic acid, stearic acid, an isomer thereof, pelargonic acid, capric acid, lauric acid, myristic acid, dodecylbenzenesulfonic acid, ethyl-2-hexanoic acid, naphthenic acid, hexoic acid, toluenesulfonic acid, toluenephosphonic acid, laurylsulfonic acid, laurylphosphonic acid, palmitylsulfonic acid, or palmitylphosphonic acid.

28. (Previously Presented) A fuel for internal combustion engines with enhanced stability of the particles of the rare earth compound comprising a colloidal dispersion as defined in claim 16, as an additive.

29. (Previously Presented) A process for making a fuel for an internal combustion engine, comprising the step of mixing a colloidal dispersion as defined in claim 16 with a conventional fuel.

30. (Previously Presented) A fuel additive in the form of a colloidal dispersion, the colloidal dispersion comprising particles of a rare earth compound, an acid, an organic phase, an antioxidant, and an element E, wherein an atomic ratio of antioxidant to rare earth compound and the element E is 0.2 to 5.0.

31. (Previously Presented) The additive of claim 30, wherein the atomic ratio is 0.2 to 3.0.

32. (Previously Presented) The additive of claim 31, wherein the atomic ratio is 0.5 to 2.0.

33. (Previously Presented) The additive of claim 30, comprising up to 90% by weight of the rare earth oxide and element E, with respect to the total weight of the dispersion.

34. (Previously Presented) The dispersion of claim 16, wherein a weight ratio between the organic phase and acid is 0.3-2.0.

35. (New) The additive of claim 30, comprising 1% to 32% by weight of the rare earth oxide and element E, with respect to the total weight of the dispersion.

36. (New) A method comprising:

(a) providing a colloidal dispersion comprising particles of a rare earth compound, an acid, an organic phase, and an antioxidant, wherein at least 90% by weight of the particles of the rare earth compound are monocrystalline; and

(b) combining the colloidal dispersion with a fuel for an internal combustion engine, thereby achieving enhanced stability of the particles of the rare earth compound in the fuel.

37. (New) A method comprising:

(a) providing a colloidal dispersion comprising particles of a rare earth compound, an acid, an organic phase, and an antioxidant, wherein the particles of the rare earth compound are not larger than 200 nm and are in the form of aggregates of crystallites whose d_{80}, advantageously d_{90}, is not more than 5 nanometers, 90% (by weight) or more of the aggregates comprising 1 to 5 crystallites, and the acid is an amphiphilic acid comprising at least one acid with 11 to 50 carbon atoms, having at least one alpha, beta, gamma, or delta branch of the atom bearing the acidic hydrogen; and

(b) combining the colloidal dispersion with a fuel for an internal combustion engine, thereby achieving enhanced stability of the particles of the rare earth compound in the fuel.